

City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board

**Borden Building * 820 Clay Street
Monday, February 21, 2011**

Members Present:

Jane Thurman- Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc.
David Brown- Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc.
Danny Morgan- City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department
Wayne Schindler- City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department
Jimmy Thiem- Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board
Terry Harper- Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc.
Doris Burke- Parks, Recreation and Greenways Advisory Board

Members Absent:

Orrin Haywood- Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc.
Betsy Haywood Foard- Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc.

City of Raleigh Staff Present:

Christy Cornell

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. David Brown called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the 11/9/2010 meeting.

DISCUSSION

OLD BUSINESS

Wayne reviewed Ordinance 2011-829 which was approved by City Council on 1/18/11.

Terry noted has attended several planning meetings for the revision/updating of the Historic Districts Guidelines. Wayne mentioned that the Department has an interest in both the signage and archeological components and asked Terry to forward documents from these meetings.

Jimmy provided a recap of his visit to O'Rourke Cemetery. There is a significant amount of mulch build up along fence lines and there are a few places where trees are too close to fencing, both which pose problems for fence replacement. Options for replacement fencing include a bridge across trees roots or repositioning the fencing around the trees. There was a discussion about setting the new fence back several feet to allow future access for wall repairs, but ideally, the fencing should be keep along the perimeter. Terry noted that should trees be removed, they should be flush-cut and the stumps left in the ground to prevent possible damage to caskets.

Wayne will ask Urban Forestry staff to look at the North West corner and the main entrance to review landscaping possibilities.

There was a discussion on the existing brick wall. There are some structural issues which need attention. Wayne will have a mason make recommendations of needed repairs. Existing caskets near fencing and wall need to be located, but probe testing should be performed when the soil is moister.

Wayne asked if there was consensus on the type of replacement fencing at O'Rourke-Catholic Cemetery. Jane mentioned the fencing surrounding the Downtown Amphitheatre might be a consideration. Christy/Greg Fulghum will get information on this type of fencing. Jimmy and David will forward fencing suggestions for review by the Board. Christy will collect comments and present them at the March meeting. Approval of the fence's appearance and material-type must be approved by the Historic Districts Commission. It was suggested that the Board agree upon the fence's appearance and offer several different material options to the Commission.

There was a recommendation to place both the pedestrian entrance and vehicular entrance on the south side of the cemetery.

There was a brief discussion about the use of replacement landscape materials. Terry noted that the Guidelines recommend that materials be replaced with "like materials". Wayne will have staff identify existing landscaping materials.

A question was asked about how to handle internments in areas with mature tree roots. Danny mentioned that he has offered alternate burial plots, in such cases, at Mt. Hope.

The Board discussed the Maintenance Manual. Jane and Terry agreed to draft an outline for Wayne/Danny to review.

The Board reviewed costs and plaque types for Mt. Hope and City Cemetery. Jane will take a picture of Christ Church plaque and take it to Mort's Plaques for a final estimate.

NEW BUSINESS

Wayne noted that per the By-laws, it is time for the Board to act on membership given that the Board is approaching its 2-year mark. There was discussion about staggering terms and it was decided that this topic would be included on the Board's work plan for 2011-2012. Each member in attendance agreed they would be willing to serve for another 2-year term. David will contact the two absent members and see if they want to continue for a 2nd term. If they do not, he will ask the Board-as-a-Whole to serve as the Nomination Committee and send names to Christy before the Board's Annual Meeting scheduled for 3/14/2011. Nominations must be submitted to Christy no later than Friday, March 4, 2011. The names of the selected nominees will be forwarded to Council for their approval in late March.

It is also time for the nominations of Officer's for the next term. Jimmy Thiem nominated David Brown for the Office of President, which he accepted. David Brown nominated Jimmy Thiem for the Office of Vice-President, which he accepted.

It is time to prepare the Board's Annual Report for FY10-11 and its work plan for FY11-12. Christy will draft a copy for Board review at the March meeting.

Jane noted some security needs at City Cemetery. There is a non-functioning light pole which needs to be repaired/replaced. Christy will speak with Suzanne Walker about repairing or replacing this pole. David agreed to speak with Progress Energy about donating additional poles for installation in the cemeteries.

Recently, there was damage to the Willam Peace table top. Danny called the Police but apparently vandalism reports are only taken over the phone. Wayne would like to speak with the District Captain about the need for additional patrols in the City's Cemeteries.

The Board would like to speak with Cindy Trumbower about the Cemetery Watch program; there are several interested homeowners who may be able to assist with implementation. It is hoped that either the Cemetery Watch program or Fire Station #3 could assist with closing and locking the gates on a regular basis.

The next meeting of the City of Raleigh Historic Cemetery Advisory Board is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. at the Borden Bldg at Fletcher Park. This will be considered the Board's Annual Meeting for the purpose of electing Officers.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.